

ASSOCIATED INDEPENDENT COLLEGES



STATEMENT

The Associated Independent Colleges (AIC) sports competitions will commence on Saturday 18 July on the provision the easing of restrictions moves to Stage 3 in line with what has already been announced by the Queensland Government. The AIC is excited to be able to offer two mini-seasons throughout Term 3 which will align with the Queensland Government's staged approach to the return of sport and training. The AIC Management Committee's decisions about the return of our competitions have been directed by three clear considerations:

1. Safety of participants and wider community;
2. Structure of competitions;
3. Sport as a vehicle for student well-being, participation and building character.

In being able to offer sporting opportunities once again to our students, the member Colleges also acknowledge the expertise, planning and assistance of Queensland Government authorities.

Safety of participants and wider community

The Queensland Government has developed a staged approach to the return of community sport. This has been based on the expert advice of health officials. The AIC is committed to this process and has planned for the return of the different sports and trainings to align with these stages. The AIC Management Committee is also mindful that COVID-19 has not been eradicated and there still may be instances of spot or cluster school closures that may impact on our competitions. Clear health concerns remain with large gatherings of adults and the use of equipment, training facilities such as changerooms, social distancing and hygiene standards. The Queensland Government has indicated that we are in our current position because of excellent contact-tracing and social-distancing practices and that any practices that detract from these standards may cause increases to the rate of COVID-19 transmission in our community. Accordingly, the AIC has developed a *Response Plan for the Return of Sport* that addresses these concerns in each of our competitions and at each of our venues. The plan will be finalized and the expectations and requirements for basketball and tennis will be published by each College during the week beginning 15 June.

Structure of the competitions

Term 3, Season 1

Tennis and Basketball

Saturday 18 July – Saturday 8 August

The first season will commence on Saturday 18 July and conclude with a round of finals on Saturday 8 August. The schools will be broken into two pools of four schools. The first three weeks will be a round-robin with each team in the pool. The last round (8 August) will be against the College ranked the same

in the other pool. The finals fixtures will be played in age groups and hosted by each College. Year 5 & 6 teams will compete on Friday afternoon as usual starting 17 July and finishing on 7 August. There will not be a finals round for these age groups.

Term 3, Season 2

Rugby Union, Football and Chess

Saturday 15 August – Saturday 12 September

The week starting 10 August will be set aside for trial rounds. As the EKKA holiday has moved to Friday, some trials may be held on this day. The first rounds for these sports will commence on Saturday 22 August and conclude with a finals round on Saturday 12 September. These sports will be run in the same format as basketball and tennis. The later starting dates will also allow the contact sports to be best prepared for competition. Chess will follow the same format and again be played on Friday afternoon as usual. There will be no finals for age groups in Grades 5 & 6.

Term 3

Cross Country

At this stage, the Cross Country Championships will be held on Wednesday 12 August. The championships will be held at either Limestone Park or Curlew Park depending on the booking schedule at Limestone. These championships will be further reviewed closer to the date so that any changes to the Queensland Government's directives can be included in the planning.

Term 3

Rugby League

The AIC is also considering offering a carnival style competition for rugby league during the first week of the September holidays (21-23 September). However, this is still in the planning stages and more information will be given after further consideration.

At this stage, the Track and Field Championships will still be held on 9th & 10th October (Term 4). These championships will also be further reviewed closer to the date so that any changes to the Queensland Government's directives can be included in the planning. There will be some Track and Field preseason competitions held at the end of term 3 if practical and venues are available.

Sport as a vehicle for Student well-being, enjoyment and building character

The AIC has endeavoured to stay true to its mission of *providing well-organized competitions in sport that foster participant engagement and pride in communities in a holistic Christian context*. This has meant that any decisions based around spectators will be focussed on student participation and involvement rather than those of adults. We are also very aware that this year is quite different to any other and the Year 12 students will be feeling this more than most in the context of sport. We acknowledge that sport offers a microcosm view of the real effects of COVID-19 in the broader community and this opportunity allows the students to demonstrate their resilience and make the most of being able to compete in competition once again, while managing the risks associated with the COVID-19 situation.

Yours in fellowship

AIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE